

State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

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NEWS RELEASE



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Summer '02 Bookings Open Monday

(12 October, Juneau) – When reservationists at Alaska's Marine Highway turn on their phone lines Monday morning, they're looking forward to one of the earliest openings for summer bookings. Beginning Monday, October 15th, Alaskans will be able to plan and lock down their reservations in early Fall for travel on Alaska's Marine Highway in summer '02.

"Opening reservations early for both summer and the fall-winter-spring schedule that precedes it, is something we've been aiming for since last year," said Captain George Capacci, general manager of the Alaska Marine Highway System. The Marketing and Pricing Study conducted for us by the McDowell Group told us this was essential if we wanted to maximize usage of the System. I'm thrilled the staff has been able to rise to the occasion it to make happen."

Capacci went on to note, "The summer schedule, as is the case with the fall-winter-spring schedule, is compiled with community events in mind such as the Shorebird Festival in Prince William Sound, and Celebration 2002 in Southeast. All nine of our vessels will be operational and serving all 34 ports, including Prince Rupert, BC and Bellingham, WA. We're hopeful that having the schedule available and opening reservations early will not only enable Alaskan's to tie down their summer 'outbound' trips, but to visit other parts of the state, as well." Although the hard copies of the schedule won't be available until later in the week, Alaskans can currently turn to the Marine Highway's website at www.alaska.gov/ferry to view the summer schedules.

To make reservations or to obtain copies of either summer '02 or the current fall-winter-spring '01-'02 schedules, visit the AMHS website at www.alaska.gov/ferry or phone, toll free: 1-800-642-0066 (465-3941 in Juneau).

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